

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete Claims 1-22, 24, 27, 50-59, and 61 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

REMARKS

Claims 26, 28-39, 41-49, 62, 64, and 65 are pending in this application, with Claim 62 being independent. Claims 1-22, 24, 27, 50-59, and 61 have been cancelled in this Amendment. The amendments made herein are intended to place the application in better condition for allowance, and not for reasons relating to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as U.S. Patent No. 5,910,382. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claim 27 has been cancelled.

Claims 26, 28-39, 41-49, 62, 64, and 65 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,382 (Goodenough et al.). Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants' representative is submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified

application that would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,382.

Claims 23, 25, 28, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e)/103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,721,070 (Shackle). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Initially, Applicants wish to point out that Claims 23 and 25 were cancelled in Applicants' December 13, 1999 Amendment. In that Amendment, Claims 26 and 28 were amended to depend from Claim 62, which is the sole independent claim pending in this application. Claims 30 and 31 depend from Claim 29, which in turn depends from Claim 28.


Accordingly, because the only rejection outstanding with respect to sole independent Claim 62 is the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,382, and because that rejection is deemed to have been overcome by submission of the attached Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants submit that Claims 28, 30, and 31 are allowable for the same reasons that Claims 26, 29-39, 41-49, 62, and 64-65 are allowable.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested. If the Examiner believes that anything further is needed to place this

application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that she contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in that regard.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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